

Betty Combs Owen
529 Ellynn Drive
Cary, NC 27511

January 2, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing to express my support for the settlement under consideration in the U.S. Justice Department's antitrust case against Microsoft.

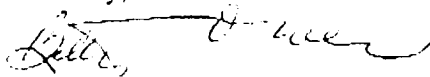
For the past sixteen years, I have served as Executive Director of the Emerging Issues Forum at North Carolina State University. Many of our annual forums have focused on the remarkable advances in information technology that our nation has enjoyed – and the incredible economic growth and opportunities that have resulted. Without Microsoft's leadership and innovation, these advances might not have happened.

Whatever wrongs Microsoft may have done in its efforts to compete in this rapidly changing and highly challenging field, I do not believe our nation's best interests are served by prolonging this litigation. I am pleased that the State of North Carolina has accepted the settlement and is no longer a party to the action. I hope that the federal courts will take the same course.

The settlement agreement provides an enforcement mechanism that will have the resources, access and authority needed to respond quickly if there are any future complaints about Microsoft's business activities. This mechanism, along with the restrictions imposed on Microsoft by the settlement, appears to be a fair and reasonable way to resolve this matter. I hope that the federal court will do so quickly.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Sincerely,



Betty Owen